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connected via a network. The information processing apparatus includes a message reception part that receives a message to execute a prescribed piece of reception processing, a rule accumulation part for accumulating rules to execute message processing, a message conversion part for executing conversion processing of a message according to the rules accumulated in the rule accumulation part, and a message transmission part for executing a prescribed piece of transmission processing of the post-conversion message.--

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1-25 by rewriting same to read as follows:

A2

--1. (Amended) An information processing apparatus for processing a transmission message among a plurality of sites connected via a network, the apparatus comprising:

a message reception part that receives a message to execute a prescribed piece of reception processing;

a rule accumulation part that accumulates a plurality of rules for executing message processing;

a message conversion part that executes message conversion processing according to the plurality of rules accumulated in the rule accumulation part; and

a message transmission part that executes a prescribed piece of transmission processing of the converted message.